



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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## Launch of American Chamber of Commerce in Ethiopia

### Heralds New Era in Trade Cooperation



*AmCham President Ato Getachew Ayele, surrounded by AmCham board members and supporters, grants Ambassador Yamamoto honorary membership.*

January 12, 2009 (Addis Ababa) – Minister of Trade and Industry Girma Birru and U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Donald Yamamoto today joined the board of the newly established American Chamber of Commerce in Ethiopia for the organization’s official launch. The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Ethiopia aims to promote economic development by strengthening

Ethiopian-American business partnerships and trade and investment between the two countries.

At the launch, AmCham President Getachew Ayele, said, “AmCham Ethiopia is committed to supporting Ethiopia’s development ambitions by promoting two-way trade and investment relations between Ethiopia and the United States.” He pledged that AmCham

would foster a positive environment for the business communities in both countries, and work to bring commercial relations to their full potential.

U.S. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto praised the newly formed organization, saying, “The establishment of an American Chamber will create a new paradigm for how

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## Launch of American Chamber of Commerce in Ethiopia . . .

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we do business in Ethiopia. This is a milestone in our two countries' partnership, and it shows our commitment to a more prosperous tomorrow for all Ethiopian citizens."

American Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AmChams) are voluntary associations of American companies and individuals doing business in a particular country, as well as firms and individuals of that country who operate in the United States.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Ethiopia is the fourth AmCham in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ambassador Yamamoto noted at the launch, "The fact that AmCham Ethiopia is only the fourth of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa shows the importance that the United States places on its relationship with Ethiopia."

AmCham Ethiopia is a not-for-profit, non-political, independent and voluntary business membership organization registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and affiliated with the U.S Chamber of Commerce. It will focus on increasing bilateral trade and investment activity, providing support and services to members businesses, and fostering a favorable business environment. As AmCham President Getachew stated today, "We will work diligently to encourage American investment of all kinds in Ethiopia, while promoting a positive image of our country in the United States."

Following its official launch, AmCham Ethiopia is actively recruiting new members. Interested parties should contact the AmCham headquarters at 011-553-1990 or [AmChamEthiopia@gmail.com](mailto:AmChamEthiopia@gmail.com). ♦



*Minister of Trade and Industry Girma Birru(R) and AmCham President Getachew Ayele (L) looking at a photo exhibit at the Launching ceremony.*



*AmCham President Getachew Ayele ringing a bell to announce the official launch of the AmCham*



## Embassy Community Shares Holiday Joy Through Donations to Community

This holiday season, employees and families at the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia collected and donated 54 boxes of gifts, toys, and hygiene items to children in need. The Embassy's Community Liaison Office led the drive to collect gifts, and the U.S. Marines' annual "Toys for Tots" charity tradition bolstered the effort. On January 2, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto led a group of community members to deliver gifts at four locations around Addis Ababa: Daughter of Charity; Kechene Orphanage; Mission of Charity Rehabilitation Center; and Godanaw Rehabilitation Integration Project.

While the donation aimed to ease the burden of needy people in the community, the givers also benefited from sharing. One of the U.S. Marines working at the Embassy, Corporal Michael Lohman, said, "Even if they don't need the toys, it kind of boosts (the kids') morale -- it made them happy inside. They were excited, they were really really happy that we went there. Just to see the reaction made me happy too. I will definitely do it again. I had a great time."

"We tried to raise the morale of the holidays for people who are less fortunate and let them know that people out there recognize them and try to help them out. We do care. Just seeing the kids' faces -- giant smiles when we brought them the things -- was nice. A lot of them had life-threatening problems or knew their situation was poor, but even during the holidays they can keep that morale and smile on their face. That was impressive. They did not let their situation get them down," said Marine Corporal David Morigeau. He added, "We visit orphanages once a



*Ambassador Yamamoto (L) with other Embassy staff unpacking the toys*



*A U.S. Marine hands out toys on January 2*

month, but going out with donations -- this happens on holidays. We will try to get more people involved and more items. ...We will make it more known and do it more often, not only on holidays."

The Embassy's Community Liaison Office (CLO) regularly visits and supports local charities, and has made a tradition of delivering gifts on holidays. This year's

winter holiday donation was sizeable, thanks to donations from Embassy employees and families, and also the cooperation of colleagues at the U.S. Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) Religious Affairs Team in Djibouti. In late December, CJTF-HOA supported the CLO effort by flying in approximately 50 boxes of donated supplies and sundry items from the United States and other countries.

U.S. Embassies around the world hold a "Toys for Tots" donation program every year

during the winter holiday. The program aims to provide toys, necessities, and a message of hope for needy children in local communities.

Our Community Liaison Officers explained why the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa participates in the program: "We have a lot to share, and we try to meet needs and bring joy. We like to see the kids smile and to connect with the local community." ♦

## Great Ethiopian Run launches 2nd edition of EDUCATION FOR GIRLS Series

U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa, 6 January 2009: Great Ethiopian Run, an Ethiopian NGO known for its annual international 10km road race in Addis Ababa, has launched the 2nd edition of a series of community runs to promote messages about EDUCATION FOR GIRLS. The 2009 series is a continuation of a project started last year when three big community races were held in Afar, Jijiga and Jinka. The first run in the 2009 series takes place in Gambella on Saturday 10th January 2009 with other runs planned for Asosa (25 January) and Jijiga (1 February).

The campaign is being backed by Haile Gebreselassie and Meseret Defar who feature in films shown in pre-race entertainment programmes at each of the race venues. In the films both Olympic champions stress the importance of learning as a means of developing confidence and becoming independent. "Educating girls," states Haile in the film, "equates to educating the whole of society."

With support from race sponsors USAID / PACT Ethiopia, Leeds Met CARNEGIE, DfID and UNICEF, Great Ethiopian Run is employing a range of publicity methods to promote the campaign including fliers to all 7,500 participants, a campaign message on all race T-shirts and banners and announcements at the race locations. CDs with messages from Haile and Meseret are also being given to local schools for use in mini-media presentations.



(Top) Athlete Haile Gebreselassie in front of the EDUCATION FOR GIRLS banner.  
(Bottom) Athlete Meseret Defar

The campaign to promote girls education comes at a time when the government of Ethiopia is trying to achieve 100% secondary school enrolment by 2012 even though the current figure for secondary school enrolment stands at just below 40%. ♦



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## USAID Donates Vehicles to Strengthen HIV Program Management

Addis Ababa - On January 15, 2009, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) donated eight Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles to Ethiopian governmental and nongovernmental institutions engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The vehicles will help strengthen the institutions' program management capacity.

The donation, funded through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), included five vehicles for the Ethiopian Drug Administration and Control Authority (DACA), to strengthen the Authority's five regional branches in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, SNNPR and Dire Dawa. DACA will use the vehicles in their programs to inspect and control the quality of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies moving in commerce around country.

The vehicles will increase the mobility of DACA's regional staff to travel to remote areas to inspect drug stores and prevent substandard or counterfeit medicines to treat HIV/AIDS and other conditions from entering the country or being distributed.

Three vehicles were donated to the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (FHAPCO) and the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Association (EPA). FHAPCO will use the vehicles to strengthen coordination activities between regional HAPCOs, while EPA's will use its vehicle to strengthen regional outreach for its Continuing Education program.

At the vehicle donation ceremony, USAID Mission Director Glenn Anders remarked, "USAID and our im-

plementing partners have made strong efforts to support Ethiopia's HIV/AIDS programs, and strengthen the public health system." Yehulu Denekew, DACA Director General, and Haymanot Assefa, Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Association Director, also spoke at the ceremony.

Management Sciences for Health/Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (MSH/RPM Plus), an implementing partner funded by USAID, procured the eight vehicles at a value of U.S.\$ 294,917. RPM Plus is one of the leading USAID contractors responsible for drug supply management of Anti-Retroviral medications (ARVs) and related commodities used for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS under PEPFAR. ♦

## New Lagoda Mirga Health Outpost to Improve Community Health Care

Dire Dawa, Ethiopia – American and Ethiopian partners dedicated a newly renovated health outpost at Lagoda Mirga Kebele on January 9, 2009. Service members of the United States'

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) renovated the clinic as part of our two countries' ongoing partnership to improve health care and livelihoods for local communities.

At the dedication ceremony, Captain Edgar M. Levine, USNR, the CJTF-HOA Force Surgeon stressed the importance of partners working together to improve community health. He joined regional and local



officials to cut the ribbon on the new facility.

The renovations to the health clinic included the installation of a new security fence, construction of a roof and gutter system, replacement of the clinic's latrine plumbing and electrical wiring, and installation of a bio-hazard incinerator. The renovations cost approximately U.S. \$50,000.

The clinic was identified for renovation by the Dire Dawa Health Bureau in December 2007. The newly completed facility will improve local health care for nearly 6,000 people living in the 12 villages of Lagoda Mirga Kebele, one hour's drive from Dire Dawa.

The work of CJTF-HOA's service members contributes to United States Government efforts to promote a better tomorrow for all Ethiopians through short-term projects to support clean water, functional schools, better roadways and improved medical facilities. CJTF-HOA's development projects are part of a strategy of Cooperative Conflict Prevention, and contribute to the task force's overall mission to build security capacity, promote regional cooperation, and protect coalition interests to prevail against extremist activities.

For more information please contact the U.S. Embassy's – Press and Information Office at 251-11-517-4244 or [ParadisoDT@state.gov](mailto:ParadisoDT@state.gov) ♦

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## Obama Seeks “Collaborative, Consultative Process with Congress”

By Michelle Austein  
Brooks  
Staff Writer

Washington — Calling Congress “a co-equal branch of government,” President-elect Obama said January 11 that his administration will have to work closely with the legislative body to pass an economic stimulus bill.

In an interview on ABC News’ This Week With George Stephanopoulos, Obama acknowledged that members of Congress might have differing opinions on how best to stimulate the U.S. economy and that the legislative and executive branches will have to work quickly and effectively together to get a bill passed.

“What we tried to do was put forward a plan that says, ‘Let’s act boldly, let’s act swiftly,’” Obama told Stephanopoulos.

The plan, details of which Obama outlined in a January 8 speech, is a multibillion-dollar initiative calling for major investments in the nation’s infrastructure. The so-called American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan “will immediately jump-start job creation and long-term growth” by doubling production of alternative energy, investing in technology that will computerize Americans’ medical records and providing new equipment to modernize U.S. classrooms, Obama said.

Obama’s plan also calls for a



*President-elect Obama has urged Congress to pass an economic stimulus bill quickly.*



*Many of Obama’s top advisers, including incoming White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, have served in Congress.*

\$1,000 tax cut for working-class families, which would “get people spending again,” the president-elect said. Obama said this costly plan would add to the country’s budget deficit in the short term, but the “consequences of doing too little or nothing at all ... will lead to an even greater deficit of jobs, incomes and confidence in our economy.”

Obama’s Democratic Party has a majority in both the House of Rep-

resentatives and the Senate, but this does not mean the legislative branch will pass a bill that includes all elements proposed by the president-elect. Some Democratic lawmakers disagree with Obama’s proposed tax cuts, while some Republicans likely will support Obama’s proposals.

Aware of concerns from their own party, Obama economic advisers Lawrence Summers and Jason Furman met with 35 Senate Democrats on January 11. Some of those at the meeting said they expect the

Obama administration to review their concerns and update the proposal. Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden also have met with congressional leaders from both parties to discuss their proposals.

“There are a couple of basic principles that I laid out ... if people have better ideas on certain provisions ... then we welcome that,” Obama said in the ABC interview. “And so we’re going to have a collaborative, consultative process with Congress over the next few days.”

### A COEQUAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

When Obama takes the oath of office January 20, the United States will be entering a relatively rare period of “unified government,” in which the White House, the House and Senate all are controlled by the same party, in this case the Democrats.

James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presiden-

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## Obama Inauguration Will Honor Black Civil War Volunteers

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — “Will the slave fight?” asked abolitionist Wendell Phillips in 1863, at the height of the American Civil War. “If any man asks you, tell him ‘no.’ ... But if he asks you whether the Negro will fight, tell him ‘YES!’”

At that time, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, made up of enlisted African-American soldiers and white officers, was just being formed. It would prove Phillips correct and inspire greater African-American participation in U.S. military forces.

Now, 146 years later, a company of Civil War re-enactors, including descendants of original unit members, will march in President Barack Obama’s January 20 inaugural parade, which Benny White, a lieutenant in the 54th’s Company A, describes as “the greatest honor that I’ve ever had.”

White, 64, grew up in Boston. Despite his interest in the Civil War, he was not aware of the history-making 54th until the 1989 film *Glory* portrayed the unit and inspired him to join other New Englanders in forming Company A to participate in historical re-enactments.

The 600 members of the original 54th were not the first African Americans to fight in U.S. military battles, but they were the first unit to receive the same military training as whites. They won acclaim on behalf of all African-American soldiers for their valor and skill, especially after leading the July 18, 1863, assault on Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina, in



*Washington's African-American Civil War Memorial honors the conflict's 209,145 black Union veterans.*

which nearly half were killed or injured.

The soldiers fought despite being offered less pay than their white counterparts and with the knowledge that the Confederate government had decreed that black soldiers and the white officers commanding them would be killed even after surrendering.

### HISTORICAL RECOGNITION CAME SLOWLY

“When I was younger I went by the [54th Massachusetts] monument in downtown Boston on school trips and ... they never really said that that’s who they were,” White told America.gov.

He said his research showed that after the war ended in 1865, the

unit was not allowed to participate in the final victory review in Washington, and its veterans, most of whom lived in a slum area near the Massachusetts state house on Boston’s Beacon Hill, initially were not recognized for their participation.

Construction began on the Boston monument in 1884, and four decades after fighting in the assault on Fort Wagner, Sergeant William Harvey Carney became the first African American to win the Medal of Honor.

In 1999, the African-American Civil War Memorial was completed in Washington to honor not only the 54th, but all of the 209,145 black soldiers who fought for the Union in the American Civil War.

Although the film *Glory* helped bring attention to the unit and the Civil War service of African Americans, White said he is skeptical about some elements of the film, such as the denial of uniforms and rifled muskets to the black soldiers and other incidents showing they were treated differently than their white counterparts.

In 1863, Massachusetts Governor John Andrew “was very strict about how he wanted them treated, and he wanted them treated exactly the same as the white soldiers,” White said. “So they came into the [training] camp and the barracks like everybody else. They were given their uniforms and the weapons and they were drilled just the way the white soldiers were drilled.”

However, they were paid less than white soldiers. White said the average monthly pay for a private was

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## Obama Inauguration Will Honor Black Civil War Volunteers . . .

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\$13, with \$3 taken away to pay for the uniform.

Massachusetts lawmakers “wanted to treat [the black soldiers] as if they were teamsters who be driving and wouldn’t actually see combat. So they took another \$3 ... [and] they were offered only \$7 a month,” he said.

For 18 months, until the matter was resolved by the U.S. Congress, the soldiers and many of their white officers refused to accept any pay, as depicted in the film. White said that by the end of the war, three African Americans had been commissioned as officers in the unit.

### NOT JUST ANOTHER PARADE

Recounting his visit to Fort Wagner,

White said the area has changed quite a bit since 1863 because parts of the seaside battlefield and fort have washed away, but its significance remains.



*The 1989 film Glory brought wider recognition to the role of African-American soldiers in the Civil War.*

over the sand dunes where the originals actually participated in the battle.”

Looking ahead to the January 20 inauguration of the first African-American president, White said he is trying to convince himself that it will be “just another parade” in an effort to maintain his composure while leading his unit.

“But of course, obviously to me, it’s a lot more than that,” he said. “I’ve marched since I was probably about 15 years old in different things, and this is the greatest honor that I’ve ever had.”

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

“To me it’s really awe-inspiring to stand on that same spot where the soldiers had fought,” he said. “We spent a couple of hours just walking

## Obama Seeks “Collaborative, Consultative Process with Congress” . . .

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tial Studies at American University, said presidents typically have a much easier time getting their proposals passed during periods of unified government. But Obama still will face many challenges, Thurber told journalists in Washington in December 2008.

Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, shared Thurber’s view. “You can’t simply wave a magic wand or change a majority and expect that we are suddenly going to move to a

very, very different environment,” Ornstein said.

Ornstein and his colleagues Sarah Binder and Thomas Mann, both senior fellows at the Brookings Institution, participated in a January 8 discussion about their recent report, *Assessing the 110th Congress*, Anticipating the 111th.

During the Bush administration, there were sometimes “tugs of war over executive and legislative power,” Ornstein said, predicting that there will be disagreements about the branches’ roles in the

Obama administration as well.

Ornstein cited a recent incident in which Biden, who has served in the Senate for 36 years, was told he would not be welcome at weekly luncheon meetings that Senate Democrats hold. Suggesting that Biden’s presence would limit opportunities for dialogue and criticism of the administration, Ornstein described the move as Congress’ way of saying, “We are an independent branch.” ♦



## United States Providing Food, Medical Supplies, Blankets to Gaza

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — Working through contractors and the United Nations, the United States is providing food, medical supplies and other basic necessities for Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, U.S. officials say.

"The supply lines into Gaza have been slow. We are relying exclusively on UNRWA [U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East] to be our shipping vehicle from east Jerusalem, from where we're purchasing things, to the crossings into Gaza and into the distribution points in Gaza," said Howard Sumka, mission director for the West Bank and Gaza for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Items purchased by the United States for humanitarian assistance to Palestinians are being sent to a warehouse managed by UNRWA in east Jerusalem, Sumka said at a press briefing January 9. Getting the supplies from east Jerusalem to Gaza has proven to be difficult, he said.

"The number of trucks that have been able to get across the Kerem Shalom crossing has been not as high as we would have liked," Sumka said. "UNRWA has been queuing up its commodities in terms of the priorities that they've identified for what needs to get to the people first." As soon as hostilities began be-

tween Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, USAID began working through contractors to acquire humanitarian goods and medical supplies, Sumka said. USAID has signed grant agreements with six nongovernmental organizations with which it has worked previously in

capacity and the experienced people and the supply and the assets on the ground to actually deliver the commodities into Gaza," Sumka said.

The USAID food aid supports approximately 20,000 nonrefugee Pal-

estinian families in Gaza in a bimonthly package of five basic commodities — wheat flour, vegetables, chickpeas, cooking oil, salt and sugar. Sumka said USAID is beginning to buy packaged, non-perishable food items because of the lack of electricity in many parts of Gaza. Medical supplies include syringes, tubes, gloves, X-ray film, tape and silk for sutures. Bedding aid includes mattresses, blankets and linens.



*Palestinians gather to receive food at a United Nations food distribution*

the West Bank and Gaza. All of these groups have a presence in Gaza and have the capacity to distribute commodities there, he said.

USAID has:

- awarded \$1.75 million in six grant agreements.
- purchased about \$80,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies.
- purchased \$250,000 worth of plastic sheeting.
- procured 40,000 blankets.
- delivered 1.6 metric tons of food aid worth about \$1.5 million through the World Food Programme.

"The reason ... we are relying on UNRWA is because they have the

"The vast majority of the food we've put in has been this five-basic-commodities package that is kind of a standard, high-calorie package for families," Sumka said.

In addition to the immediate assistance, the United States announced on December 30 that it was making an \$85 million contribution to the 2009 appeal from UNRWA, of which \$25 million will go directly to the West Bank and Gaza. Some \$5 million will go directly to the flash appeal that UNRWA issued in response to the current humanitarian crisis, said Elizabeth Hopkins, director for Asia and the Near East in the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. ♦

## Students' Tour of Civil Rights Landmarks Is 'Life-Changing'

By Jeffrey Thomas  
Staff Writer

Washington — Every summer, about 30 African-American and Jewish secondary school students board a bus and embark on a journey intended to help them become leaders in the fight against racism. Their three-week tour, the centerpiece of a yearlong training program called Operation Understanding DC (OUDC), takes them from Washington to New York and then south to landmark sites of the civil rights movement.

Among the stops are Greensboro, North Carolina, site of the 1960 lunch counter sit-ins; Selma, Alabama, the starting point for three famous civil rights marches; and Memphis, Tennessee, where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

"We change the lives of our students," said OUDC Executive Director Rachael Feldman. "Students leave the program understanding that every single one of us is a voice and we need to use it to make the world a little better."

Those taking the trip have spent the first part of the year learning about the histories and cultures of African Americans and Jews while getting to know each other as individuals. But it's on the summer trip that they bond and have many of their most intense experiences — experiences they will later draw upon in making presentations and conducting workshops aimed at reducing prejudice.

OUDC seeks to create a new generation of leaders through a combination of education and life-



*Susan Barnett and Elita Emerson from the third OUDC class express their solidarity on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.*

changing experiences. It aims to preserve the historic alliance between African Americans and American Jews, who in the last century cooperated in the founding of such organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Urban League, and also worked together in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Inspired in the early 1990s by a similar program in Philadelphia, OUDC accepts up to 32 African-American and Jewish secondary school students representing a mix of schools and economic backgrounds from throughout the Washington, D.C., area. OUDC looks for future leaders — young people who display curiosity, maturity, commitment to their community and excellent communication skills.

"Our students spend a little time

walking in other people's shoes, and I think that makes them much better citizens when they graduate from the program and enter university and eventually professional life," Feldman said. "They start to think early on about their place in the world and how they can make a difference in the world."

Bianca Davies, a graduate of the 2007 OUDC class, said the program, especially the summer trip, was a life-changing experience that "opened my eyes to so many things."

"It really helped me in the process of finding who I was," said Davies, who is African American. "I thought I knew a lot about African-American history, but when going through the program I realized, like, wow! — I know nothing."

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## Students' Tour of Civil Rights Landmarks Is 'Life-Changing' . . .

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Davies said her most cherished experiences were in Selma, Alabama, on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where on March 7, 1965 — so-called "Bloody Sunday" — state and local police attacked peaceful demonstrators with clubs, tear gas and bull whips; and in the Lorraine Motel Museum in Memphis, where the OUDC group met with Reverend Billy Kyles, who was with Martin Luther King when he was assassinated.

On the Edmund Pettus Bridge "I was just filled with so many emotions I literally started crying," Davies said.

"I couldn't stop crying. ... I really need to cherish life, and I really need to be who I can be to the fullest because those people fought for me to not be where they were — to not endure the struggles they endured."

Now enrolled at Spelman College in Atlanta, Davies has applied for a diversity leadership internship that focuses on community outreach. She plans to make diversity education her life's work. "I really want to go out there and teach others how important diversity is and to eradicate all these stereotypes that we have about one another," Davies said.

Sam Dreiman, a graduate of the

10th OUDC class, also considered the summer trip the highlight of the program, particularly the Alabama segment.

"OUDC opened my eyes to social injustices," said Dreiman, now a

mund Pettus Bridge and it's quiet and you realize what it must have been like to be there on Bloody Sunday — it just becomes so real."

"I don't think any of our students would say we have moved into a

post-racial age," Feldman said. "I do think they see things shifting in this country. I don't think any of them feel like we're where we need to be, but they feel like everything they started working on when they were in high school through this program is starting to come to fruition."



*OUDC students visit the Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi, in 2004.*

senior at the University of Virginia. He is studying for a degree in public policy, in part because of the OUDC experience. He plans to work on international development and humanitarian issues.

The tour of Selma is led by Joanne Bland, who at 11 years old marched on Bloody Sunday and witnessed the brutality of the police. Bland "talks to the kids about seeing her sister getting clubbed by a state trooper and seeing the blood, and she really talks about how horrible it was," Feldman said.

"You can read things in a book or hear someone speak, but when you are standing at the foot of the Ed-

( <http://amlife.america.gov/amlife/diversity/index.html> ) and Black History Month ( <http://amlife.america.gov/amlife/diversity/black-history-month.html> ). Also see Free At Last - The U.S. Civil Rights Movement ( <http://www.america.gov/publications/books-content/free-at-last.html> ).

More information about OUDC ( <http://www.oudc.org/> ) is available on its Web site.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

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## Counterterrorism Should Top Obama Security Agenda, Bush Says

By David McKeeby  
Staff Writer

Washington — Preventing terrorists from staging another attack on American soil may be the most urgent security challenge facing President-elect Barack Obama, says President Bush.

"I wish him all the best. The stakes are high," Bush said January 12, in what White House officials billed as Bush's farewell press conference. "There is an enemy that still is out there ... an enemy that would like to attack America and Americans again."

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United States has built a wide array of new diplomatic and security partnerships worldwide to share intelligence, track terrorist finances and bring extremists to justice — an accomplishment that top officials and experts agree has prevented another attack on U.S. territory.

When Obama takes office January 20, confronting terrorism at home will also mean redoubling America's half-century of commitment to peace in the Middle East. The Bush administration helped move the process forward by being the first explicitly to call for the creation of a Palestinian state and by helping Israeli and Palestinian officials re-launch peace talks at the 2007 Annapolis Conference.

"Most people in the Middle East now accept the two-state solution as the best way for peace. Most Palestinians want their own state. And most Israelis understand there needs to be a democracy on their border in order for there to be long-



*President Bush talks with President-elect Obama at the White House on November 10.*

lasting peace," Bush said. "The challenge, of course, has been to lay out the conditions so that a peaceful state can emerge."

Meanwhile, Bush said, the United States must continue in the international efforts to help the Palestinian Authority build strong governing institutions and effective security forces, and to offer new economic opportunities for the citizens of a future Palestinian state.

Palestinians need "a vibrant economy ... that will help lead to democracy," Bush said. "Will this ever happen? I think it will. And I know we have advanced the process."

### **PROGRESS — AND REGRETS — IN IRAQ**

Another key component of Bush's legacy — his 2003 decision to lead an international coalition to remove

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and set the nation on the course to democracy — will pose a continuing challenge for future presidents, he said. "The question is, in the long run, will this democracy survive?"

The 2007 U.S. troop surge helped the Iraqi government confront extremist elements, setting the stage for improved security and a recently concluded treaty between Washington and Baghdad for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Iraq by 2011 — an agreement that Obama says he would like to fulfill ahead of schedule.

Bush acknowledged that despite these gains, his administration made several mistakes in Iraq, from the abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison to flawed intelligence that indicated Saddam had stockpiles of weapons of mass destruc-

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## United States Welcomes Gaza Cease-Fire Proposal

By David McKeeby  
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice joined Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and members of the Arab League in welcoming a new cease-fire proposal to defuse the crisis in the Gaza Strip.

"We believe a cease-fire is necessary, but it has to be a cease-fire that will not allow a return to the status quo," Rice told reporters January 7 outside the chambers of the U.N. Security Council in New York. "We are very much applauding the efforts of a number of states, particularly the effort that President [Hosni] Mubarak has undertaken on behalf of Egypt. We're supporting that initiative."

Rice traveled to the Security Council for an emergency meeting on the widening crisis facing 1.5 million Palestinians caught in the crossfire after Hamas's decision to abandon a previous cease-fire agreement and step up rocket and mortar attacks on southern Israeli communities.

Hamas, designated by the United States as a terrorist group, has launched more than 500 rockets into Israel since December 27, 2008, while a 12-day Israeli security operation to suppress Hamas attacks has claimed more than 600 lives and injured more than 2,500 others in the densely populated territory, threatening to eclipse progress toward Middle East peace made since the November 2007 U.S.-sponsored Annapolis confer-

ence.

As officials met in New York, Mubarak announced a new cease-fire proposal, negotiated with sup-



*Secretary of State Rice addresses an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council January 6.*

port from French President Nicolas Sarkozy, which calls for an immediate cease-fire to allow food and humanitarian aid deliveries into Gaza and to allow Egypt to broker a more permanent peace with Hamas, which seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority in June 2007.

"I've been in very close discussions with my Arab colleagues, but also with the Israelis, about the importance of moving that initiative forward," Rice said.

While Abbas, who heads the internationally recognized Palestinian government from the West Bank, has expressed support for the Egypt-

tian proposal, Hamas has yet to agree to the plan. But leaders of the militant group have stated that they would not launch rockets during Israel's suspensions of security operations, according to news reports.

"It's far too early to say we can get a breakthrough," said British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, who joined Rice at the Security Council, along with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and other top European and Arab diplomats. "We've got to make sure that the actions on the ground and the actions in New York come together to help deliver the immediate and durable cease-fire that is so important."

As leaders discuss the details of the proposed truce, White House spokesman Dana Perino said Rice held late-night talks with Israeli leaders, who then announced they would open a humanitarian corridor into Gaza and would begin suspending security operations for three hours each day to allow aid deliveries into the territory.

"We have deep concerns about the humanitarian situation in Gaza," Rice told reporters January 7. "I'm pleased that the Israelis were able to open a humanitarian corridor and to provide a pause for humanitarian action, but that needs to be repeated again and again because the people of Gaza need to be in a position to be able to get a lifeline to goods and to supplies, and to sani-

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## United States Welcomes Gaza Cease-Fire Proposal . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

tation, and to medical help.”

“None of our countries would have been willing to tolerate such a circumstance,” Rice said of the security threat facing Israeli citizens, while noting that “the people of Gaza watched as insecurity and lawlessness increased and as their living conditions grew more dire because of Hamas’ actions.”

Moving forward, Rice said, the key to peace will be a return to normal life for the people of Gaza, by ending Hamas rocket and mortar strikes into southern Israeli communities; closing the network of tunnels used by Hamas to smuggle weapons into the territory; and reopening border

crossings into and out of the territory — a measure sought by Hamas since its seizure of Gaza — and ultimately transferring border operations from Israeli to Palestinian control.

The United States contributed \$85 million in humanitarian aid for Gaza through the United Nations in 2008, Rice said, and is ready to offer more to help rebuild after peace has been achieved.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan said his country, a recently elected member of the Security Council that has been active in Middle East mediation efforts, would be prepared to contribute to an international monitoring force in Gaza.

Rice extended her visit to New York for further consultations on the French-Egyptian cease-fire proposal, as well as with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

“We need very much to find a solution to this problem in the short term. But it really must be a solution this time that does not allow Hamas to use Gaza as a launching pad against Israeli cities,” Rice said. “The time has long since come when Palestinians who deserve to live in their own state should get that state and when Israelis who will live in peace and security when they have a peaceful neighbor should have that peace and security.” ♦

## Counterterrorism Should Top Obama Security Agenda, Bush Says . . .

*(Continued from page 12)*

tion — a belief shared by several U.S. allies in the months leading up to the war in Iraq.

“The one thing about the presidency is that you can only make decisions on the information at hand. You don’t get to have information after you’ve made the decision. It’s not the way it works,” Bush said. “You stand by your decisions and you do your best to explain why you made the decisions you made.”

### **BUSH URGES CONTINUED FOCUS ON NORTH KOREA, IRAN**

Another major policy challenge would be maintaining the international diplomatic momentum needed

to curb the spread of nuclear weapons, Bush said. He urged the next administration to continue working with the Chinese-led Six-Party Talks to pressure North Korea to honor its pledges. North Korean leaders agreed to allow international monitors to fully verify all of Pyongyang’s nuclear capabilities as part of efforts to eliminate nuclear programs from the Korean Peninsula and stabilize the region.

“In order to advance our relations with North Korea, the North Korean government must honor the commitments it made, to allow for strong verification measures to be in place, to ensure that they don’t develop a highly enriched uranium program, for example.

“North Korea’s still a problem,”

Bush said. “They’re still dangerous and Iran is still dangerous.”

During his election campaign, Obama pledged a new U.S. willingness to engage diplomatically with Iran, North Korea and several other countries — a policy course that will take shape over the next several months and a topic likely to figure prominently in the Senate’s consideration of former senator and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton as Obama’s secretary of state.

“I’m not going to speculate about what he’s going to do,” Bush said. “He’s going to get in the Oval Office, he’s going to analyze each situation, and he’s going to make the decisions that he thinks [are] necessary.” ♦



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## U.S. Supports Egyptian Mediation Efforts between Israel, Hamas

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States supports Egyptian efforts to end the current crisis between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and also supports a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire in the conflict.

While 14 nations on the Security Council voted January 8 for the cease-fire resolution that has taken days to work out, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States chose to abstain in order to give Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak time to mediate a truce between the Israelis and Hamas.

At the same time, Rice said, the United States did not want to block passage of the resolution because “we decided that this resolution, the text of which we support, the goals of which we support, and the objectives that we fully support, should indeed be allowed to go forward.”

The Security Council has provided a road map for a sustainable, durable peace in Gaza, Rice said. Rice had been in New York since January 6 to work with the Security Council in crafting a cease-fire resolution that would satisfy council members and Arab states that had offered their own cease-fire resolution.

Egypt had worked out a six-month truce between Israel and Hamas in June 2008 that ended in December 2008.

“We must establish an international consensus that Gaza must never again be used as a launching pad

for rockets against Israeli citizens, because it is important to remember how this crisis began. Violence in Gaza was instigated by Hamas, a terrorist group that called for the destruction of Israel,” Rice said during Security Council debate on January 8.



*Secretary Rice, center, talks with U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad, right, during consultations at the United Nations on January 8.*

Actions by Hamas have contributed to the crisis now engulfing the Gaza Strip, Rice said.

“Eighteen months ago, Hamas took over the Gaza Strip in a coup, and since then, thousands of guns and rockets and mortars have been smuggled into Gaza,” she said. “Hamas refused to extend the tahadiya [truce]. ... Continued armament is a root cause of the current situation, and it has gravely endangered the residents of both Gaza and southern Israel.”

Rice said Hamas’ rocket attacks are not just an attack on Israel, but also on the two-state solution. The United States supports a Palestinian

state living at peace and side by side with Israel.

Gaza has been under control of Hamas since June 2007 when its forces ousted the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority, which has maintained control over the West Bank territories and is the recognized government of the Palestinian Territories.

The Gaza Strip is a rectangular section of land along the Mediterranean coastline between southern Israel and Egypt. The nearly 1.4 million residents living there are Palestinians, and many have been living in refugee camps for decades.

Israel launched its offensive after Hamas called off its six-month-old truce with Israel and increased the number of rockets and mortars being fired into southern Israel.

### U.S. CONCERNED ABOUT HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

At a White House press briefing January 9, deputy press secretary Scott Stanzel said the United States remains deeply concerned about the mounting humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

“We have expressed that concern throughout this crisis,” he said.

Stanzel also underscored remarks Rice made earlier at the United Nations, saying that Egypt has been working to develop a “durable and sustainable cease-fire,” and it is a process that the United States continues to support. “We are working with our international partners at length. Secretary Rice had a very strong involvement in that resolution,” he said. ♦

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## Presidential Transition Offers Opportunity to Build Bridges

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
Staff Writer

Washington — Even a 24-hour news cycle cannot satisfy consumer demand for current information about the new Obama administration's growing list of foreign policy priorities.

So many problems and so little time is a recurrent theme for panelists who are speaking in the U.S. capital and beyond. More than 1,400 academics, reporters and government and military officials from around the world gathered to consider that list of problems at a January 8 conference sponsored by the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), entitled "Passing the Baton: Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities Face the New Administration."

The Bush administration's outgoing special envoy on nuclear nonproliferation, Robert Joseph, told the gathering that it is important to support President-elect Barack Obama as he seeks to address a myriad of national security threats.

The ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will remain center stage for the new president, as will the actions of neighboring governments in Pakistan and Iran. Former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski said U.S. foreign policy concerns are interrelated in these four countries, but each requires a distinct approach and specific policy.

The importance of this region to the new administration was reflected in Vice President-elect Joe Biden's trip

there January 9–11. Obama and Biden have pledged to revitalize Afghanistan's economic development with additional resources and to boost aid to Pakistan.

The pressing issue of securing North Korea's cooperation to disarm its nuclear program in a way that satisfies the verification concerns of Japan, China, Russia, the United States and South Korea was discussed at the conference.



*Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani (right) shakes hands with US vice president-elect Joe Biden in Islamabad. (AFP/Aamir Qureshi)*

Participants also said Obama will need to address a demand to slow global climate change. This subject ties into two other pressing, related issues: food security and the need for help around the world in response to a recent increase in natural disasters.

Wendy Sherman, who will soon return to the State Department for a second period of service as counselor, said the incoming administration will have to work hard on a complex collection of security is-

suues because "the baton" that conference participants discussed that will pass from Bush to Obama on January 20 is hardly "a magic wand."

### REGIONAL ISSUES WILL DOMINATE

There are many experts ready to roll up their sleeves, and their advice has been pouring in on every conceivable global issue for every region of the world. Former State Department policy adviser Suzanne Maloney said there is a chance for a change in the nature of U.S.-Iranian relations after a series of missed opportunities. She said Iran could well decide to engage in a selective, constructive dialogue with the United States, especially on the narrow subject of Afghanistan.

William Luers, who is president of the United Nations Association of the USA, said it is time to set a new tone with Iran, and he advocated talking directly with midlevel Iranian officials and opening a dialogue, as the United States did with China during the

Nixon era. Face-saving gestures will go far to smooth the way for future contacts, Maloney said.

General David Petraeus, commander of the U.S. Central Command, talked at length about the way ahead in Afghanistan. Nothing has been easy there, he said, warning that progress in 2009 and beyond will demand a comprehensive, regional approach that includes Pakistan. It will take time to build government capacity to provide services throughout Afghanistan's

*(Continued on page 21)*

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## Innovation May Help United States Meet Economic Challenges

Washington — The United States' lead in innovation makes it better positioned to face future challenges than is any other country, despite current economic woes, according to a new study.

The U.S. economy was ranked as the most innovative in the world by INSEAD, a Paris-based business school, in its Global Innovation Index. Although the top spot for the United States is predictable, "the great extent of the lead is less so," said Soumitra Dutta of INSEAD, who led the study, and Simon Caulkin of World Business magazine in an online article.

The United States was followed by Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Switzerland, Singapore, Canada, the Netherlands and Hong Kong.

The study defines innovation as "the amalgamation of invention and creativity that leads to the generation of economic and social values."

The index is based on a belief that a country's (or territory's) readiness to respond to challenges is linked to its ability to adopt, and benefit from, innovative technologies, bolstered human capacities, better organizational and operational capabilities and improved institutional performance. That is why its authors went beyond traditional meas-

ures of innovation, such as spending on research and development and number of patents. Instead, they assessed "pillars" of innovation, such as policies, infrastructure, technology sophistication,

"It also takes a culture of diversity, optimism and meritocracy, in which individual background is much less important than the desire to succeed," they said.



*A project manager at Microsoft adCenter Labs in Redmond, Washington, demonstrates a prototype advertising technology.*

knowledge creation and competitiveness.

The U.S. economy offers a better environment for innovation and is more effective in exploiting it, the study says. It cites U.S. universities and research centers, which attract the best and brightest from around the world, and unparalleled funding opportunities as factors contributing to the U.S. advantage.

Dutta and Caulkin said, however, that first-class universities and plentiful funding do not by themselves explain a winning formula.

The study says the innovation leadership position held by the United States is not set in stone and that "Asia is set to redefine many aspects of innovation." For example, South Korea, ranked 19th, has emerged with the most advanced broadband Internet society in the world.

Dutta and Caulkin caution

that in the increasingly heated competition for the brightest minds, the United States may not be able in the future to "camouflage" what they call deficiencies in U.S. primary and secondary education by attracting overseas talents. They also warn that the United States has aging infrastructure, which could hinder achieving significant productivity gains through innovation.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*



## Bush's Successful HIV/AIDS Program Looks to Next Five Years

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Staff Writer

Washington — During its first five years, from 2003 to 2008, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) exceeded its goals of supporting treatment for 2 million HIV-infected people and care for 10 million people living with HIV/AIDS, including orphans and vulnerable children.

The program's 2009 annual report to Congress, *Celebrating Life*, details PEPFAR successes and the breaking of new ground in becoming the first large-scale effort to tackle a chronic disease in the developing world.

"In 2003, when President George W. Bush announced PEPFAR, many still doubted whether HIV prevention, care and treatment services could ever be provided in a resource-limited setting, where HIV/AIDS was a death sentence," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said January 12 during a briefing at the State Department in Washington to release the report.

"Just five years later," she added, "thanks to strong partnerships between the American people and the people of host nations around the world, we've seen what was once thought to be impossible become truly possible."

### HISTORIC INITIATIVE

With an original commitment of \$15 billion over five years and a final



*President George W. Bush embraces members of the African Children's Choir Wednesday, July 30, 2008, thanking them for their musical performance at the White House after signing Signs H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008*

funding level of \$18.8 billion, PEPFAR is the largest international health initiative in history dedicated to a single disease and the world's largest development initiative.

In 2008, Bush signed into law a document that authorizes up to \$48 billion over the next five years to fight global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Through 2013, PEPFAR will work in partnership with host nations to treat at least 3 million people, pre-

vent 12 million new infections and care for 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children, the report says.

The program also will support training for at least 140,000 new health care workers in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, according to the report.

"As we leave office," Rice said, "I don't think that anything will stand as strongly, in the hearts and minds of people around the world but also in our own consciousness, as the work and the achievements of PEPFAR."

### CARE, TREATMENT, PARTNERSHIPS

Through September 30, 2008, PEPFAR funding supported life-saving treatment for more than 2.1 million men, women and children worldwide, including more than 2 million in the 15 focus countries — Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tan-

zania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

"PEPFAR is not only a bilateral program, it's also a multilateral program," Dr. Mark Dybul, the U.S. global AIDS coordinator, said during the briefing. "The United States is the largest contributor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria" — a global public-private partnership — "so about 30 percent of every Global Fund grant

*(Continued on page 21)*

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## Drinking Water Treatment Becomes More Affordable with U.S. Help

By Nancy Pontius  
Special Correspondent

Littleton, Colorado — An affordable, sustainable drinking water treatment system designed by a U.S. laboratory is being used successfully in Ghana, India, Sri Lanka, Mexico, South America and the Philippines.

The technology, which uses ultraviolet light to disinfect water safely and cheaply, was designed by Ashok Gadgil at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

"The lab conducts research in all areas of science and encourages transfer of innovations to the marketplace, including technologies benefiting the developing world," lab spokesman Allan Chen told America.gov.

The lab licensed the purification system to the U.S. firm WaterHealth International (WHI), which is working to expand access to affordable drinking water in developing countries and thereby reduce diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

"Around the world, waterborne diseases kill more people than AIDS and have a huge health and economic impact," Tralance Addy, WHI president, told America.gov. His organization provides a weapon to fight waterborne disease, and works alongside nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in developing countries to improve living conditions.

For instance, 1 million people have access to clean water from more than 200 WHI water centers in India, where the technology was introduced in 2006 and established through a partnership with the Naandi Foundation.

Other NGOs such as the Lions Club also have provided funding, as have several foreign-born physicians residing in the United States who want to support their home towns.



*Tralance Addy, WaterHealth International president, stands in front of a modular WaterHealth Centre structure.*

Individuals in these communities have reported that they and their livestock are healthier with treated water, according to WHI, which studies health improvements from the water centers.

"WHI also partners with foreign governments who provide an umbrella of support to establish water centers, and sometimes provide funding," said Addy, who was born and raised in Ghana.

### WATER TREATMENT CENTERS

In the past, donated or purchased water treatment technology sometimes failed, Addy said, because communities had to struggle to maintain the facilities.

To overcome this, WHI developed "WaterHealth Centres" where water is treated centrally for a small community using a variety of approaches, including:

- ultraviolet water disinfection technology, which is highly effective against harmful germs, and does not require high energy, high water pressure or sophisticated maintenance procedures.

- new buildings, which also can be used for community meetings and social events, to house the systems.

- local personnel hired and trained to operate and maintain the systems.

- hygiene and health education programs that emphasize the economic benefits of avoiding waterborne illnesses.

- narrow-neck water-storage containers to avoid water recontamination.

- marketing to inform residents of the water treatment and its benefits.

- financing for a portion of initial installation costs (\$20 per person for a small village in India, for example).

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## Changes Sought in U.S. Export-Control Rules, Immigration

Washington — Many U.S. export and immigration restrictions designed to prevent the transfer of sensitive technologies and scientific advances should be changed or scrapped because they harm U.S. national security and economic prosperity, a new report says.

The report, issued January 8 by the National Academy of Sciences, says reform of high-tech export controls and visa policies regarding scientists and engineers is overdue.

"In the modern, globalized world of science and technology, restrictions on the flow of information, technology and scientists can negatively impact both U.S. competitiveness and security," said John Hennessy in a news release from the academy. Hennessy, president of Stanford University, together with Brent Scowcroft, a former national security adviser, co-chaired the panel that prepared the report.

The study says Cold War-era regulations introduced when the United States was a dominant science-and-technology power do little for national security while hampering U.S.

innovation and economic competitiveness in a world in which U.S. adversaries are diffuse and technological advances are dispersed among different countries. Also, as the United States increasingly competes with other countries in the global pool of scientific and engineering talents, its undifferentiated immigration policies weaken the competitive edge of its universities and research centers.

The report says U.S. national security and economic prosperity depend on full global engagement in science, technology and commerce. It recommends reforming relevant regulation to make it more "agile and effective." Decisions to place goods and technologies on the export-control list should be based on specific principles, and controls themselves should have time limits.

The report argues that technology should be deemed eligible for export unless shown by the government to constitute a security risk. The report also calls for eliminating export controls on dual-use technologies — those that can be used for both civilian and military purposes — if

such technologies are available without restriction on open markets in other countries.

In addition, the report urges streamlining of the visa process for foreign graduates of U.S. universities with science or engineering degrees who prefer to stay in the country, and extending the duration of stays for science and engineering graduates with advanced degrees.

The authors of the report recommend implementing changes quickly through executive order rather than legislation, arguing that Congress has proved unwilling or unable to deal with the issues in the past. But they acknowledge that eventually legislative reform will be required.

The report ([http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12567#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12567#toc)) is available on the Web site of the National Academies Press.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

## Drinking Water Treatment Becomes More Affordable with U.S. Help . . .

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WHI asks communities to make a down payment — sometimes provided by a local government, philanthropist or NGO — and then helps finance the remaining balance. Once the loan is repaid, the community owns the center.

To cover loan payments and operation and maintenance costs, con-

sumers are charged a small fee for purified water. "Currently, one village in Ghana charges 5 cents for 20 liters of treated water," Addy said.

Local entrepreneurs often start businesses delivering treated water by bicycle or truck. For many families, the time spent collecting water takes away from income-producing activities. "Men and women often

walk long distances to get water, and water collection is a common reason why girls don't go to school," Addy said.

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Telling America's story

**Bush's Successful HIV/AIDS Program Looks to . . .**

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comes from the American people through PEPFAR."

PEPFAR support for treatment will save an estimated 3.28 million adult years of life through the end of September 2009, and the program increased the share of treated children from 3 percent in 2004 to 8 percent in 2008, the report says.

The program supported care for more than 10.1 million people affected by HIV/AIDS worldwide, including more than 4 million orphans and vulnerable children; HIV counseling and testing for nearly 57 million people; and tuberculosis treatment for more than 395,400 HIV-infected patients, the report says.

In 2008, PEPFAR partnered with 2,667 organizations, 86 percent of them local, up from 1,588 in 2004. The program also supported, accord-

ing to the report, an estimated 3.7 million training and retraining encounters for health care workers between 2004 and 2008.

Asked about the future of PEPFAR, Dybul said that President-elect Barack Obama was one of 16 co-sponsors of the program in the Senate; Vice President-elect Joe Biden helped move the bill through the Senate.

"So clearly there's strong support" for PEPFAR in the next administration, Dybul said.

The full text of the report ( [http://www.pepfar.gov/press/fifth\\_annual\\_report/index.htm](http://www.pepfar.gov/press/fifth_annual_report/index.htm) ) is available on the State Department Web site.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

**Presidential Transition Offers Opportunity to Build Bridges . . .**

*(Continued from page 16)*

provinces, he said, and to reduce corruption and develop the rule of law.

Petraeus said the coalition has to serve as Afghanistan's partner and not take actions that would lead it to be perceived as an occupying force. The number of Afghan civilian casualties must be reduced, he said, because without that the Taliban will have an effective recruiting tool.

The issue of food security in Afghanistan will require urgent attention, according to Petraeus. He advocated offering subsidies to Afghan farmers who grow priority crops.

**ISSUES THAT MAY OFFER  
SWIFTER PROGRESS**

Turning from a regional to a thematic focus, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Robert Orr predicted that 2009 could be "the year of climate change" as the result of an alignment of mutual interests.

Anne-Marie Slaughter, the dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, said the United States must provide leadership on climate change and nonproliferation or nothing of substance will happen. At the same time, she said that strategic leadership means looking for strong partners and letting other countries take the lead when it makes sense. By sharing burdens, she said, the United States "invites cooperation," leading to more suc-

cessful international engagement.

Former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said the Obama administration can do two things immediately to change the international equation quickly and dramatically. He said the new president should close down the detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and ask the U.S. Senate to ratify the 1982 U.N. Law of the Sea Convention. The treaty establishes rights and responsibilities for nations' use of the world's oceans and sets guidelines for managing marine resources.

Republican leader of the Foreign Affairs Committee Senator Richard Lugar wrapped up the daylong conference by urging everyone to embrace the political transition. ♦